Message Text

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R 072242Z FEB 74 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG AMCONSUL DURBAN AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MEANY AFL-CIO'S TELEGRAM TO M. VILJOEN, MINISTER OF LABOR, SOUTH AFRICA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

- 1. DEPARTMENT RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING TEXT OF A TELEGRAM DATED FEBRUARY 6 WHICH WAS SENT BY PRESIDENT MEANY TO M. VILJOEN, MINISTER OF LABOR, CONCERNING FOUR BANNED WHITE TRADE UNIONIST.
- 2. THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS: HONORABLE M. VILJOEN,
 MINISTER OF LABOR, POSTS AND TELEGRAPH, LABORIA BUILDING,
 PAUL KRUGER STREET, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA. QUOTE: THE
 AFL-CIO STRONGLY PROTESTS BANNING AND HOUSE ARREST OF
 LEADERS OF AFRICAN TEXTILE WORKERS UNION. THIS ACTION
 CLEARLY INDICATES SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CHANGED
 NOR EVEN MODERATED ITS POLICIES AND TACTICS WHICH DENY
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FULL TRADE UNION RIGHT TO ITS PEOPLE. FOLLOWING SO CLOSELY

ON THE RECENT SHOOTING AT CARLETONVILLE THESE ACTIONS CAN ONLY SERVE TO FURTHER ISOLATE ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE AFL-CIO CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA TO RELEASE THESE PEOPLE AND OTHER BANNED AFRICAN LABOR LEADERS SUCH AS DRAKE KOKA AND TO IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ALL ITS PEOPLE OF ALL RACES TO ENJOY FULL TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND FREEDOM. SIGNED, GEORGE MEANY, PRESIDENT AFL-CIO

UNQUOTE.

- 3. THE TEXT OF THIS TELEGRAM WAS ALSO SENT TO HARRIET BOLTON, THE SECRETARY OF THE NATAL GARMENT WORKERS UNION AND TO ARTHUR GROBBELAAR, TUCSA'S GENERAL SECRETARY.
- 4. PATRICK O'FARRELL DIRECTOR OF AALC TOLD US THAT AALC WOULD HAVE TO RETHINK ITS PLANS FOR SOUTH AFRICA, IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS.

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